

I CLAIM:

1. A cover for the barrel portion of a baseball bat, comprising:
a first material piece having a first edge and an opposing second
edge stitched together to form a substantially tubular casing, said tubular casing
5 having a first open end for receiving the barrel portion of a bat, and a second end
closed off by a second material piece stitched thereto.

2. The cover of claim 1, wherein said first and second material pieces
are formed from an elastic rubber material.

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3. The cover of claim 1, wherein said first and second material pieces
are neoprene.

4. The cover of claim 1, wherein said first material piece is
15 substantially rectangular in shape.

5. The cover of claim 1, wherein said second material piece is
substantially circular in shape.

20 6. The cover of claim 1, wherein said first and second edges are
stitched together along their entire respective lengths, forming a seam that
extends the entire length of the tubular casing.

7. The cover of claim 6, further comprising a fastening means for securing the cover to the bat.

8. The cover of claim 7, wherein said fastening means comprises a strap extending from said first edge of said tubular casing at a point adjacent to said first open end, said strap adapted to mate with a strip mounted on said first tubular casing at a corresponding position also adjacent to said first open end.

9. The cover of claim 1, wherein said first and second edges are stitched together only partially along their respective lengths, forming a tubular casing having a split that extends into said first open end.

10. The cover of claim 9, further comprising a fastening means for securing the cover to the bat.

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11. The cover of claim 10, wherein said fastening means comprises a strap extending from said first edge of the split of the tubular casing, said strap adapted to mate with a strip mounted on said first tubular casing at a corresponding position adjacent to said first open end.

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12. The cover of claim 9, wherein a first tab extends from said first edge along said split, and a second tab extends from said second edge along said split, with said first and second tabs adapted to overlap when the cover is secured to the bat.

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13. A protective cover for a baseball bat, comprising:
 - a tubular casing formed of neoprene, said tubular casing defining an opening for receiving a bat; and
 - fastening means for securing the cover to the bat.

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14. The cover of claim 13, wherein said tubular casing is formed from at least two material pieces that are glued, stitched, or seamed together.

15. The cover of claim 13, wherein said casing is adapted to extend 10 along the entire length of the bat, and is contoured to match the shape of the bat.

16. The cover of claim 15, wherein said fastening means comprises a zipper closure.

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17. A cover for the barrel portion of a baseball bat, comprising:
 - a first piece of neoprene material having a first edge and an opposing second edge stitched together to form a substantially tubular casing, said tubular casing having a first open end for receiving the barrel portion of a 20 bat, a second end closed off by a second piece of neoprene material stitched thereto; and fastening means for securing the cover to the bat.

18. A cover for the barrel portion of a baseball bat, comprising:
 - a first piece of elastic rubber material having a first edge and an 25 opposing second edge stitched together only partially along their respective

lengths forming a tubular casing, said tubular casing having a split located adjacent to a first open end for receiving the barrel portion of a bat, a second end closed off by a second piece of elastic rubber material stitched thereto; and fastening means for securing the cover to the bat.

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